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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
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OCT 16 1963

Miami, Florida

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INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBABATISTA FALLA FACTION

LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA is the military leader of one section of the Movimiento Democratica Cristiano (MDC), an anti-FIDEL CASTRO organization, which section maintains its office at 1732 N.W. 7th Street, Miami, Florida, phone number FRanklin 1-9182.

On July 1, 1963, United States Customs Agents confiscated a 23' Seabird blue fibreglass boat belonging to BATISTA. The boat contained Florida registration #FL 1218F and was confiscated because it carried a gun mount.

On July 19, 1963, Mr. WALLACE SHANLEY, United States Customs Agent, Miami, advised BATISTA appeared at the office of United States Customs, Miami, subsequent to the confiscation of the boat, for the purpose of having it released. BATISTA claimed that the gun that was going to be used on the gun mount had been confiscated by United States Customs Agents on their recent raid at the residence of CARLOS ZARRAGA, 2954 S.W. 16th Terrace,

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Miami. United States Customs declined BATISTA's request for the release of the above mentioned 23' motor boat.

MM T-1, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on July 29, 1963, that BATISTA FALLA is military head of one faction of the MDC, and had the authority of his organization to cooperate and coordinate military activities with Comandos L.

MM T-2, a Cuban exile, advised on July 29, 1963, that Comandos L is a Cuban revolutionary organization headed by SANTIAGO ALVAREZ RODRIGUEZ. This organization has carried out military operations against Cuba, and after their last operation in March, 1963, United States Customs Agents in Miami, Florida, confiscated the organization's boat and military equipment.

MM T-2 explained that BATISTA and ALVAREZ believe that a unity between both organizations has a number of benefits, especially since military equipment owned by each organization can be loaned back and forth as the need arises.

MM T-2 continued that BATISTA FALLA at that time was in Central America, contacting representatives of different Central American governments and important people for the purpose of determining what possibilities exist for the establishment of a unified Cuban exile

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military action group. BATISTA was expected to return to Miami, Florida, early in August, 1963.

MM T-2 said BATISTA's trip to Central America also served as a check on announcements made by former President of Nicaragua LUIS SOMOZA, to the effect that Nicaragua would give military help to the different militant Cuban anti-Communist organizations. Comandos L felt they can trust the judgment of BATISTA, and planned to later confer with him on his return to the United States.

It is noted that previous investigations has reflected that former Nicaraguan President LUIS SOMOZA came to the United States in July, 1963, and talked individually and in groups to various Cuban exile leaders in the Miami area. Also SOMOZA reportedly conferred with various officials of the United States government in Washington, D.C. It was reported his conversations with the Cuban exiles in the Miami area related to the possible establishment of a base of operations for these Cubans in Nicaragua or elsewhere in Central America, for preparations to overthrow the present government of Cuba.

On August 13, 1963, LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, 1300 S. Bayshore Drive, Miami, advised he continues as the military head of the MDC, and that a week previously he had been in Nicaragua on the invitation of former Nicaraguan President LUIS SOMOZA. The purpose of BATISTA's visit to Nicaragua was to confer with SOMOZA concerning the Cuban situation, and the possibility of aid to the Cuban exiles in overthrowing the present Cuban government.

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He said in Nicaragua at the same time as he on the invitation of SOMOZA, were CARLOS PRIOR SOCARRAS, former President of Cuba; MANUEL ARTIME BUEA, one of the principal leaders of the Bay of Pigs invasion attempt in April, 1961; and MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA, President of the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC), a unity group of anti-CASTRO organizations. These persons were interviewed separately by SOMOZA, but later compared notes and found that SOMOZA discussed with each the same basic subject matter.

SOMOZA disclosed he was favorable to the establishment of one or more bases of operations for the Cuban anti-CASTRO exiles in Nicaragua, or some other Central American country. SOMOZA indicated that Honduras, however, was rather cool to the idea, would likely not cooperate, and that this was possibly due to the power of the Communist Party in Honduras. SOMOZA appeared anxious to get the views and opinions of BATISTA FALLA concerning the feasibility of such a plan. However, SOMOZA made no commitments, and did not disclose the existence of a firm plan of action or any specific agreement between Nicaragua and other Central American countries or with the United States. He gave the impression to BATISTA FALLA he was attempting to lay a preliminary foundation for the establishment of such a base. SOMOZA told BATISTA he would call him in about thirty days for further discussions.

BATISTA said he also visited Costa Rica, and that he hopes to establish a base for clandestine operations against Cuba from either Nicaragua or Costa Rica, or both, as circumstances permit. He said nothing definite

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had been accomplished up to this time.

BATISTA continued that in his conversations with PRIOR SOCARRAS, PRIOR disclosed that during his recent visit to the Dominican Republic, prior to the Nicaraguan trip, he had conferred with JUAN BOSCH, then President of the Dominican Republic. PRIOR urged BOSCH to help the Cuban exiles establish a military base in the Dominican Republic. BOSCH refused and asked PRIOR not to press him in this matter. BATISTA FALLA said PRIOR and BOSCH are long time friends, PRIOR having helped BOSCH financially when the latter was a Dominican exile residing in Cuba.

MM T-3, another government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, advised on September 3, 1963, that agency had received the following information from [redacted]

As of early July, 1963, according to RODRIGUEZ MENENDEZ, an attorney and executive member of the MDC, the MDC had made a unity pact with Comandos L. According to the pact, Comandos L were to contribute training and assistance in military intelligence and were to provide three naval units and one B-26 aircraft which the group already had in its possession. The MDC was to contribute three small boats and a team of men to be infiltrated into Cuba.

The MDC was also involved in unity negotiations with PRIOR SOCARRAS, who would contribute \$50,000 as

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military aid to the MDC, which organization in return would provide political support to PRIO.

The MDC was also negotiating a unity pact with the Students Revolutionary Directorate.

The MDC planned to buy a new boat with the money to be received from PRIO and planned to stage another air raid against an oil refinery in the City of Havana, Cuba.

On September 26, 1963, MM T-3 advised that further information was obtained from RODRIGUEZ MENENDEZ to the effect that as of September 19, 1963, BATISTA FALLA, CARLOS PEREZ MENA and VICTOR PANEQUE, MDC members, were planning to leave for Puerto Rico on a mission to obtain help to operate from some place near Cuba. They also wished to be able to use the AT-6 airplane they have in Caracas, Venezuela, for raids against Cuba and for transporting arms which they have in Venezuela.

BATISTA was planning to buy the schooner PRIMAVERA, located in the Miami River, at Miami, but as of September 19, 1963, had not been able to raise the money to purchase the vessel.

RODRIGUEZ said there was great unrest among MDC members, which has been generated by the constant failures of BATISTA. For this reason certain MDC executives have had strong words with BATISTA.

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LUCAS FACTION

MM T-4,

[REDACTED] on July 17, 1963, advised that JOSE FERNANDEZ BADUE, also known as LUCAS, continues to be the President of the MDC, which organization maintains headquarters at 2333 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, and continues as a member organization of the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC). MM T-4 stated the MDC does not know if it should continue in the CRC because of the inactivity of the CRC, and the great criticism of the CRC for having created the June 20, 1963 Cuban invasion hoax.

MM T-4 said the Lucas Faction has 15 men who were previously in the underground in Cuba, and now went to return to Cuba, and again operate in the underground. In addition, there are some 30 members of the Lucas Faction in Miami who are willing and available to work against Communism in Cuba. The MDC requested this information be made known to the United States government, along with the MDC's being available for any United States government sponsored activity in the future.

On July 31, 1963, FERMIN ELEITES, officer and member of the executive committee of the MDC, advised that on the previous day MIGUEL "CUCO" LEON, former CRC delegate to Nicaragua, returned to Miami with a Nicaraguan military officer, name unknown, who visited MDC headquarters in Miami on July 29, 1963. The

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Nicaraguan claimed to be an army officer, and for years to have been an assistant to General ANASTACIO SOMOZA of Nicaragua. This army officer acted tough, and left no doubt he was a Nicaraguan military man. He offered to the MDC training camps, military equipment and military bases in Nicaragua, from which Cuba could be attacked. He did not indicate this plan had any sanction or support of United States military officials. This Nicaraguan claimed all expenses of moving MDC personnel and other Cuban exiles to Nicaragua would be paid for, but the Cuban exiles would receive no salaries while in military training camps or while fighting in Cuba. The Nicaraguan explained there are no Cubans training in Nicaragua but that he had recently spoken to ARTIME BUESA and BATISTA FALLA in Nicaragua concerning this plan.

On August 13, 1963, MM T-4 advised that the plan for MDC members to go to Nicaragua never materialized and at the present time the MDC maintains no military training camps and does not participate in any military activities.

MM T-5, a member of the CRC, advised the CRC continues to exist and the MDC faction of LUCAS continues to belong to the CRC. MM T-5 explained that since the CRC and the MDC have not received any United States government subsidies since April, 1963, the CRC and MDC have had no significant activity; barely continued to exist; can hardly maintain operating expenses; are in debt and the future is uncertain.

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MM T-5 explained that the Lucas faction of the MDC is barely able to maintain its office; engages in no publicity or propaganda, and is relatively inactive.

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Reference memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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